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efforts. Mr. Saunders' method is to confine each female butterfly in a small, dark box, — a pill box for example, — in which she is obliged to deposit her eggs; he endeavors, before the eggs are hatched, to notice what plant the butterfly seems to affect; the young larvæ are fed upon it, and, in many instances, successfully reared.

As careful descriptions of these larvæ and pupæ cannot be prepared without many specimens, and as we have so little accurate knowledge of the earlier stages of our native butterflies, our friends need not fear to send Mr. Scudder all the specimens they can find. If possible, they should be sent alive, so as to secure good colored drawings of each species; the larvæ should be accompanied by fresh, moistened leaves of their food plant for nourishment on the journey, and forwarded by mail in small, light, but strong boxes (tin is preferable), to S. H. Scudder, Boston Society of Natural History, Berkeley street, Boston, Mass., marked in addition, *Insects*. This latter precaution is necessary, because, in case of a temporary absence from the city, Mr. Scudder will leave directions to have boxes thus marked, sent at once to his artist. The specimens should be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, and, when known, the name of the insect and of the plant on which it feeds. When it does not seem practicable to forward them alive, they may be sent in small bottles of glycerine, or in a mixture of one part pure carbolic acid (Squibb's preparation), and twenty-four parts water. In this case also they should be sent at once and by mail, that the colors may be seen before they fade. When neither of these methods is possible, spirits may be used, but the colors will soon be lost. If any one obtains a number of eggs and is able to raise them, it would be best to forward, from time to time, two or three specimens both of the eggs and chrysalids, and the same number of *each moult* of the larva; the butterfly which has laid the eggs should always be preserved, and forwarded with the larvæ, etc., for satisfactory identification. If any one is in doubt about the food plant of some insect which he has found, it would be best to write a letter of enquiry to Mr. Scudder, who will be glad to answer any questions.

• Those willing to assist in this work should commence at once to trace the history of the *Theclæ* and *Lycænæ*, of which almost nothing is known. The former feed upon various trees and shrubs, such as the oak, thorn, willow, pine and cedar, and also on the hop-vine; the latter upon different kinds of herbs, as *Lespedeza*, etc.

The author trusts that those who live outside of New England, will remember that he must depend absolutely upon them for information concerning the earlier stages of those insects which are very rare in New England, but common with them. Any assistance that they can render him will be most gratefully received.

THE KINGFISHERS. — A monograph of this beautiful family of Birds is now being published by Mr. R. B. Sharpe, of the Zoölogical Society of London. It will be issued in twelve to fourteen parts, imperial 8vo, each part to contain eight beautifully colored lithographic plates. All the species

of Kingfishers known (about one hundred) will be described and figured, and Dr. Murie will furnish a chapter on the anatomy and osteology of the family. Only two hundred copies of the work will be printed: three parts are already issued. The price to subscribers will be about \$5.00 a part, delivered in this country. The work is worthy of support by the ornithologists of this country, and we should be happy to take subscriptions for the author. The price will be advanced one-fifth after the work is out.

BULLETIN OF THE ESSEX INSTITUTE.*—This new publication of the Institute is one of the results of the changes that have taken place owing to the formation of the Peabody Academy of Science, and the transfer of the Scientific Museum of the Institute to the charge of the Academy. In great part the "Bulletin" will take the place of the "Proceedings and Communications" of the Institute, which will be discontinued after the publication of Volume *six* (now in press), which will bring the Proceedings up to the month of January, 1869, at which date the "Bulletin" commences.

The "Bulletin" will contain an account of the proceedings at each meeting of the Institute, and the lists of donations, etc., made to the library of the Institute, and to the Museums of both the Institute and the Academy. It will also contain short lists of the deficiencies in the library of the Institute, and of duplicate books offered for sale and exchange, but by far the greater part of each number will be devoted to the short communications read at the meetings, and of general interest, while the longer historical papers will be printed as heretofore in the "Historical Collections," and the purely scientific communications will be offered to the Academy for publication in its Memoirs. It will thus be noticed that the "Bulletin" will take the place of the "Proceedings," while the Memoirs of the Academy will correspond to the former "Communications" of the Institute.

The first number of the "Bulletin" contains, among other interesting papers, the remarks made by Prof. A. M. Edwards at a recent meeting, on Guano, in which Prof. Edwards advances the theory that guano is not the droppings of birds, as has generally been supposed, but is the deposit of the remains of dead animal and vegetable matter at the bottom of the ocean, which, as the coast rose, had been so lifted as to appear on the crests of the islands formed, and from the chemical changes it had undergone, had become guano. Among other facts brought forward to prove his theory, he mentioned that an island had risen at the Chincha group, which contained guano on its summit at the time of its uprising. He also alluded to the fact that the droppings of birds would be quite inadequate to supply the vast amount of guano found, and that such droppings were chemically distinct from guano.

The first and second numbers of the "Bulletin" contain obituary notices of our late associate, Horace Mann, and of the distinguished ornithologist, John Cassin.

* 8vo, 16 to 20 pages. Issued monthly. Price 10 cents single copy. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Essex Institute Press.